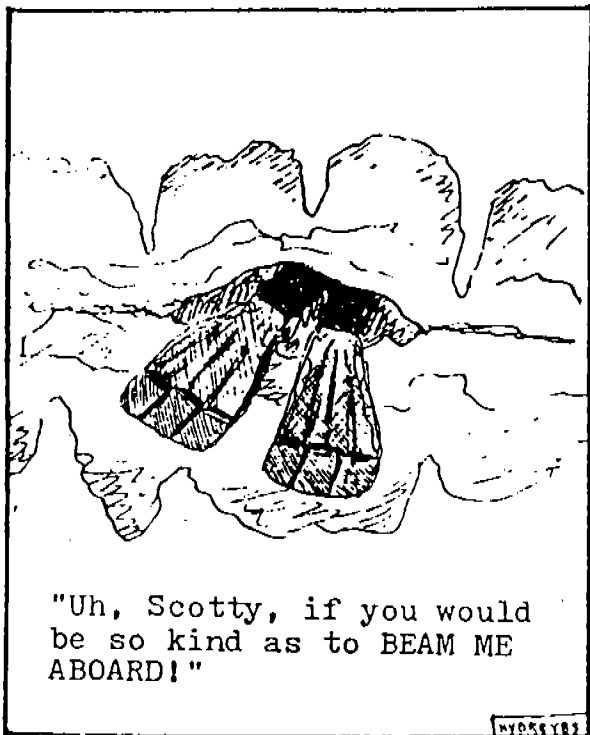


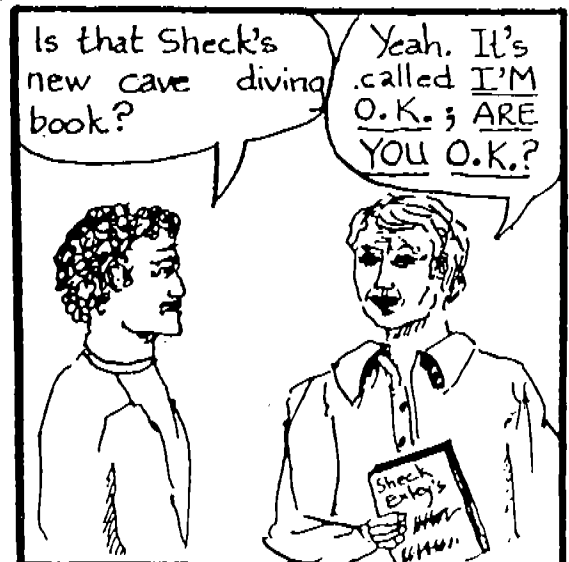


UNDERWATER SPELEOLOGY

Volume 10 No.2/3



WELCOME TO VALERIE GREY, THE WORLD RENOWNED CARTOONIST THAT HAS JOINED THE STAFF OF OUR NEWSLETTER. UNDERWATER SPELEOLOGY HAD TO NEGOTIATE WITH TIME, THE NATIONAL LAMPOON, AND THE DRY GULCH GAZETTE TO GET MS. GREY TO PEN A FEW OF HER CARTOONS FOR US. MORE TO COME.



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Beginning in February

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The National Speleological Society

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WAYNE MARSHALL, Editor
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Seffner, Florida 33584

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Sandy Fehring, Treasurer
3508 Hollow Oak Place
Brandon, Florida 33540

Make checks payable to the NSS Cave Div-
ing Section in care of the Treasurer.

Opinions expressed in Underwater Spele-
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Society.

* * * NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS * * *

All submissions to the newsletter are
gratefully accepted. We will mail you
a notice that your article has been re-
ceived and the estimated time of publica-
tion only if requested. Since all art-
icles must be re-typed anyway, all we
want is a readable copy. It is not nec-
essary at all that the article be typed.
Further, we need short notes to fill in
spaces at the end of articles as well as
longer works to more thoroughly explore
certain subjects.

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** MINE RECOVERY WAUCEDAH, MICHIGAN **
 ** JUNE 6, 1983 **

Steve Ormeroid

While returning from this recovery, I composed several articles in my head that dealt with the circumstances of this drowning. Upon arrival back in Ohio, I learned that a triple recovery had been made at the same time at Royal Springs, near Branford, Fla. Shortly after that a single recovery at Ned-sag(?) Sink, now a cave diving accident in Puerto Rico and at Blue Hole Apopka near Orlando and all of this preceded by the double drowning at Ebro Blue and the single drowning at Manatee Springs State Park.

I must admit that with each incident I became more concerned and distressed with writing an article about a single incident. After a certain amount of soul searching, I feel that all the facts must be analyzed before a report can be made concerning the causes of the other accidents. I feel that this particular incident in the mine merits a special report due to the unusual nature of the diving environment. It was a cave dive in a man-made mine. The victim had not planned to make a cave dive at the time of the accident.

Mike and Mark were scuba diving in the Emmett Mine, also known as the Waucedah Mine Pit. They had entered the water at approx. 6 PM. Both had entered a smaller shaft and swam thru a connecting shaft to the main corridor at the 40 ft. level. Upon reaching the main shaft, the divers went straight down to 95 ft. and stopped at a structure known as the "raft". At this point both gave the OK sign and Mike was to take 2 UW photos. They had discussed a dive plan prior to entering the water, and were planning to surface after the pictures were finished.

Both divers were experienced and had dove this site several times before. They had never violated an established dive plan before.

While Mike was involved with taking the 2 photos, Mark swam to his right side. Mike feels he was facing east on the raft and that the ladder intended to be followed to the surface was to his left. Mark continued swimming down into a rectangular hole between some timbers and out of sight. Mike read the 800 psi on his gauge and elected to remain at the raft and to shine his light into the hole to try and see Mark or his bubbles. Mike did observe air bubbles coming out of the hole for a short while. Some other bubbles were observed to come out of another small hole off to the left. These too did not last long. Mike stayed as long as he could on what little air he had remaining. He feared for Mark's safety as he surely would have been low on air himself as he was entering the hole. Despite his concern for Mark, Mike surfaced. (Editor Comment: We feel that Mike exercised very good judgement in not entering the hole and in remaining as long as possible in his attempt to light up the exit for Mark.)

Once Mike surfaced, he spotted some bubbles coming up from the south wall of the shaft. He swam over, went down, and swam down to a depth of 80 ft. His search was abandoned after his own air supply was exhausted. Mike surfaced and notified the local Police Dept. of the incident.

It is my opinion that the victim wished to make one last "dip" under the timber pile on the bottom prior to surfacing. This was something the he and others had done before; swim under the timber pile to the base of the ladder (the old vertical elevator rails). This time however, due to silt or narcosis, the

victim turned the wrong way and entered a "strobe". A strobe is a large room in which ore has been removed. The basis for the first part of this theory is that I found the small opening in the wall (which immediately dropped from 95 to 130 ft.) totally by feel in zero visibility. I'm certain the victim had zero visibility also. My theory on the location being a strobe (instead of a shaft) is that I had only one wall reference and the victim was found facing in. (Ed. comment Steve later described the site to me as diving thru a hole in the side of an ink bottle). I dove at the mine again on August 18 and 19 and unfortunately the visibility was still too poor to safely survey that particular area. (Strobes are areas known to have unstable ceilings).

I feel, as do other divers involved, that this was a classic cave death in that proper training would have clearly indicated the need for proper precautions to insure the safety of the dive team.

Dale Purchase (NSS/CDS Cave Diving Instructor) and myself have just completed a Cavern, Basic Cave, and Recovery course with the Dickson County Sheriff's Recovery divers in the mines of that area (including Waucedah). It is readily apparent that this environment is unique and requires cave diving training. Talks with local citizens revealed that these mines are being dove regularly.

It is apparent that no matter how hard the cave diving organizations strive to educate and train the diving public, new areas will be found to stretch their diving abilities.

The final point to be made with this article is that cave diving and associated techniques are not limited to the springs of Florida or even to the

southern portion of our hemisphere. LET'S GET THE WORD OUT THAT WHEN ONE PENETRATES ANY OVERHEAD ENVIRONMENT WITH SCUBA THAT IT IS CAVE DIVING AND NEEDS SPECIALIZED TRAINING, EQUIPMENT, AND TECHNIQUES.

This is true whether we are speaking of wrecks, mines, caves, or coral enclosure. Diving of any type can be practiced safely with proper training and equipment. Trained cave divers have been proving that for years. KEEP IT UP.

My special thanks to Dale Purchase, Saginaw, Mich. and to Randy and Danny Kwiatkoski, NSS-CDS Basic Cave Divers of Amherst, Wis. for their dedication and assistance in this most difficult recovery. I would also like to publicly thank Wes Skiles for his training of Randy and Danny in their basic cave class. Two finer divers would be hard to find. The Section should be proud of these two fine divers.

(Ed. comment This story represents an excellent example of the type of accident analysis that can be obtained with proper attention to deeds and the sequence of events. Of course, this must be done with extreme sensitivity when speaking with survivors or family members.)

* * BOB'S SIMPLISTIC REEL * *

Bob Nadich

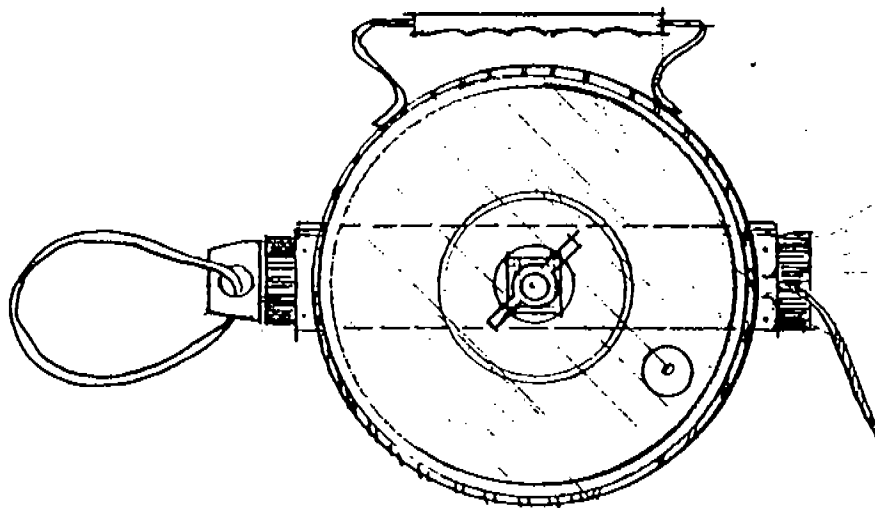
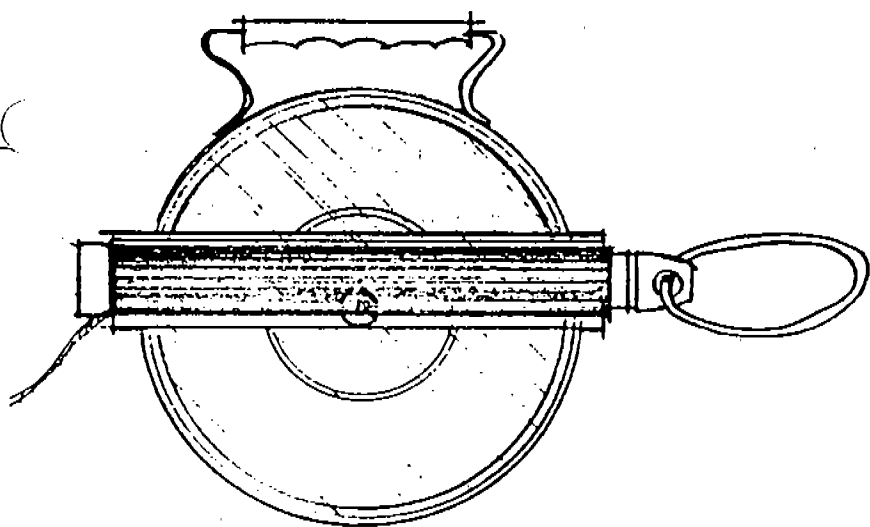
On the reel that I made, I've eliminated the frame around the reel. The drum enclosure serves this purpose, while the side handle mounts the drum axle. A wing nut & a jam nut, finger tightened against it to lock it from unscrewing are threaded on the other end of axle. This retains the reel drum, pre-

Provides adjustment for line drag, or snubs the line fast. This setup also enables me to partially or fully slide the drum out of the housing for clearing, in the event of any kind of jam or foul up. This is, of course, a big safety feature.

The reel balances well by holding it either by a handle on top (which can also be used as line cleat) or by gripping the secondary light bracket at the side. This bracket allows the light to beam inline with the line while paying out or reeling in line. This bracket is a slotted piece of brilliant orange plastic gas pipe so that in case I drop the damn thing, it should be easier to spot. A lanyard slipped

over the wrist prevents losing it and yet can be slipped out of the holder if snagged. A mini-biner thru the handle can clip the reel to the diver and also be used to hold the loose nuts when removing the drum. Further refinements might be a side handle strip with spring clips to accept different sizes of lights and maybe an axle with a simple quick release pin.

Now too bad there isn't a homing reel that would wind up a spring as it is being paid out going into the cave. Then when air margins called the dive, all you would have to do is pull a trigger on the reel and hang on as the spring rapidly reeled you back out of the cave.



Ed note; I have already designed such a reel as Bob described, but didn't tell anybody about it because of two design problems. They were 1)The reel could not discriminate between out of the cave and out to the next tie-off point. That is why I now have such a flat forehead! and 2)The reel spring was so strong that a long run would cause the diver to accelerate to the point that the mask was ripped off their face! Anyone wishing to volunteer for further testing should contact me care of the intensive care ward at Shand's hospital! Ha! GWM

* * EDITORIAL * *
LET'S STOP THE DROWNING!

Wayne Marshall

In this issue we also have Steve Ormeroid's accident analysis article on a mine drowning in Michigan. He points out that this has not been a good year for untrained participants in our sport.

The keyword is of course, UNTRAINED. What can we do to increase the public awareness of the hazards of this activity without further advertisement of the glamor of the sport to those thrill seekers that will try anything once. That question has remained a pivotal issue at each Board meeting that I have participated in recently.

The Section provides semi-annual Workshops designed to outreach to the diving public. We also provide brochures and other printed matter free to the diving public thru several outlets. Certainly our publication of the Cave Diving Manual has gone a long way toward helping educate the general public to the hazards of our sport and to the proper procedures.

All that is excellent, but not enough.

We are all aware of Open Water Instructors that come to Florida for checkout dives and deliberately expose their students to an environment that is clearly not allowed as an open water dive by the certifying agency.

I have had conversations with the National Staff of two different Scuba agencies who were simply not aware of the problem. They were assuming that because the agencies policy manual prohibited training dives in an enclosed site such as Ginnie Springs that none of their instructors were doing so. Certainly we know differently, don't we!

The original use of the term "Open Water Dive" was to discriminate between pool training and that done in the real world. Perhaps that term is best applied very literally. Open water is simply that, OPEN WATER. Why do so many "Open Water Divers" wind up in U/W caves as fatalities? It is my very strong opinion that the root of the problem lies outside of the cave diving community, and rests primarily in the lap of the national agencies. These agencies have typically turned a deaf ear to the efforts of NSS/CDS and NACD to work with them to improve their instructor acceptance of the problems that diving in an enclosed environment presents.

We cannot approach a problem of this magnitude with a casual, sporadic effort. This problem is threatening the access that we currently enjoy to a variety of dive sites as land owners are exposed to continued stories of the hazards of cave diving. The land owner also does not discriminate between trained or untrained, and open water or cavern/cave divers. Further, nature doesn't either. Out of air can be fatal to you no matter how many cards their are in your wallet. We are also seeing the result of excessive diving pressure on an already stressed environment. This pressure is

increasing dramatically each year.

We in the Section are justifiably proud of our safety record. We can legitimately claim that no diver certified by our agency has ever died in a cave diving incident. Lest we toot our horn too much, let's put that into proper perspective. NACD was involved in teaching Cave Diving before many of today's methods and equipment options were available and when diving in cave was not quite as safe as it has become recently. They have a very good safety record when one compares similar time frames, as well as a very good overall comparison. I for one would not want to have some newspaper reporter or editor rub our noses in it should our thus far unblemished record fall by the wayside.

Further, we are in a position of dividing the educational resources of the cave diving community with the ill will created by the continued little pot shots taken by members of one Cave Diving Agency to the other. Let there be no doubt that this goes on in either camp! Why do we have to assume that either agency is better than the other? Why not present a completely united front to the public and to the Open Water Diver seeking information from either the Cave Diving Section or NACD. What would be wrong with jointly sponsored seminars and workshops? We could certainly reach more people better in this way. I have begun to think that we are sometimes our own worst enemy in matters to do with public education.

The whole issue of enticement versus education is one that exists at the NSS level as well as the CDS level. There is one critical difference, however. The concern for an air filled cave rescue is usually just that, how to make the RESCUE! We in the Section almost never get to do a rescue. They are almost all

recoveries. I submit that this one distinction overrides any arguments about enticement.

The simple fact is that divers are once again demonstrating their amazing abilities to place themselves in jeopardy due to lack of training, equipment, or proper technique. Or is it just a lack of awareness? How does the question of enticement enter into the issue. Our response ought to be an emphatic WHO CARES, just how does it stop?

**** ELECTION TIME IS NEAR ****

Our annual election of officers is coming up in December. At this time every year, the Board solicits nominations from the membership. Anyone that is interested in running should be committed to the time requirements and have a sincere desire to serve the needs of the Cave Diving Section and its goals and objectives.

In years past, the Board was elected to serve in a specific position. This year the election process will be somewhat different due to the changes set forth in our new Constitution and By-laws. We will elect Board Members at large, and the Board will select its own officers. It is felt that this measure will assure some continuity in the leadership of the Section and avoid the dilemma of having to choose between two excellent candidates for the same position.

Any desiring to submit an individual to the nominating committee should do so right away by sending this information to the Steve Ormeroid, Section Chairman. Steve's Address is as follows:

Steve Ormeroid, Chairman NSS-CDS
629 West 4 th St.
Marysville, Ohio 43040

*** CAVE DIVING WORKSHOP ***

The 22 nd CAVE DIVING WORKSHOP sponsored by the Cave Diving Section is coming round the bend ! It will be held in Branford, Fl. at the Branford High School once again. The date is Dec 28,1983. Topics will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter.

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:00 AM AND THE WORKSHOP STARTS AT 9:00 SHARP ON THE 28th of DEC., 1983.

REGISTRATION COSTS;
POSTMARKED ON or BEFORE DEC 10th
NSS CDS MEMBERS.....\$3.00
ALL OTHERS..... 5.00

AFTER DEC 10th-- PAY AT WORKSHOP
NSS CDS MEMBERS.....\$5.00
ALL OTHERS..... 7.00

MAIL REGISTRATIONS TO:

JOE DABBS, WORKSHOP CHAIRMAN
1815 INSPIRATION LANE
HUNTSVILLE,ALA. 35801

WE URGE ALL OF YOU TO ATTEND THIS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR SPORT, MEET OLD FRIENDS AND PLAY CATCH-UP, MAKE NEW FRIENDS, OR JUST HAVE A GOOD TIME !!

CAVE DIVING IN LUCAYAN....



"Z" DIVER MEETS DELTA



** NEW PUBLICATIONS ADDRESS **

Anyone interested in ordering publications from the Section should address all inquiries to Valerie Grey. Valerie has taken over the reins of this very important job from Sheck Exley. After many years as our Publications Chairman, Sheck has found that the pressing demands of his current work schedule require that he let someone else handle this one.

The Section owes a great deal of gratitude to Sheck for this job, as he was the Publications Chairman because he has been the author of almost every one of our publications! Many thanks for a job well done.

Valerie brings her infectious enthusiasm to this job and we wish her well. In another area, Valerie is also the staff cartoonist for the newsletter. If you ever saw your Editor's artwork, you would certainly appreciate Valerie's contribution to you in this area all the more.

This may be somewhat premature, but the Board has settled the controversy around publication of Cave Maps, and we will once again be able to obtain these valuable reference and training aids! The maps will be obtainable from publications also. For anyone needing publications of any sort (except back issues of the newsletter which are available thru the Treasurer) as well as T-Shirts and very soon she will have our Cave Maps for sale! Valerie's address is:

H.V. Grey,
NSS-CDS Publications
P.O. Box 575
Venice, Fl. 34284-0575

A price schedule will be published next issue of Underwater Speleology on all of the items available from Valerie.

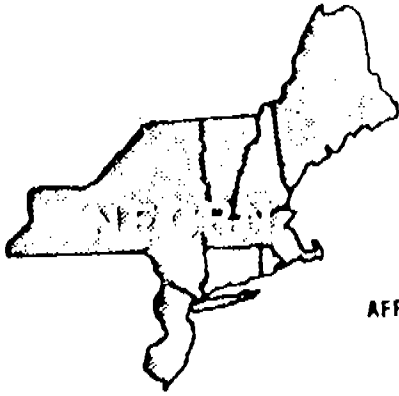
* * New T-Shirt Contest * *

We are looking to have some new T-shirt designs printed up. You know, fancy stuff for the ladies like pockets on the sleeve for their cigarettes and french sleeves on the tube tops. For the guys, we're thinking of something in a nice pastel color with lace trim on the collar and bottom. Who said real men wouldn't like it? A real man wouldn't care what others thought if it was for the good of the section! So there!

Anyhow, Valerie Grey has advised me that she is having a contest to select other designs in addition to the one we currently have. Perhaps something smaller and more simple for just the front of the shirt, or a whole new concept for front and back would be in order. Who knows what all you creative types out there can come up with. All drawings submitted will be displayed at the winter workshop for your perusal. We will even vote for the one that suits your fancy best.

Prizes will be given based on a set of criteria established by former Secretary of Interior James Watt as to the environmental appropriateness of the concept portrayed therein. Once that hurdle is crossed, the artist will have to submit to the grueling personal interview process established by Bill Fehring. If you don't think Commander Fehring can conduct a grueling interview then you've never seen the 50 page questionnaire teen age boys have to fill out to date his 17 year old daughter!

Seriously folks, this a great idea. Why not wear your feelings on your shirtsleeve ... or front... or back. This has certainly been a popular trend and every cave diver in the Section should all chip in and buy Sheck Exley a new wardrobe! If we only could get him to quit wearing those designer label fatiques and relax a little!



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Northeastern Cave Rescue Network

AFFILIATED WITH THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY...THE NATIONAL CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION

September 2, 1983

-Editorial-

As an uncertified cave or cavern diver, Mr. Fielding has joined the ranks of the many tourists who annually pass through the North Florida area to dive the springs. Like many of these others, he was unprepared for the technicalities involved in diving this particular environment and, as such, was most fortunate not to have become another cave diving fatality. Although one tragedy was narrowly averted, a second one seems not to have been. I think it very tragic, indeed, that Mr. Fielding apparently learned little, if anything, of consequence from his mishap and, therefore, has no lesson to pass on either to the readers of his article (Cave or Tomb? Sept. 1983) or to his future students.

As an open water scuba instructor, it is certainly incumbent upon Mr. Fielding to live up to the standards of the diving community professed by all instructors, particularly as regards knowledge and training. Had he more thoroughly investigated the diving activity in North Florida, Mr. Fielding would have discovered that cavern diving in Florida is very different from that in the ocean and bears little resemblance to his open water experiences, however extensive. He would also have learned that cavern diving courses are offered by both the National Association for Cave Diving and the Cave Diving Section of the National Speleological Society. These courses discuss the proper equipment and techniques necessary for the safe exploration of Florida's many submerged caverns. I wonder why it is that Mr. Fielding did not avail himself of these specialty courses, as any responsible instructor would have advised a student to do, before he so foolishly embarked upon his adventure.

Was Mr. Fielding, in fact, cavern diving? One of the criteria of a cavern dive is that you do not stray past surface light. At the bottom of the shaft and on the line at the entrance to the Peacock > Pothole run, Mr. Fielding was well beyond surface light. He was, in fact, cave diving - unknowingly, untrained, and undoubtedly ill-equipped. He was recklessly endangering his life and that of his companions!

Mr. Fielding should, I believe, spend some time thinking about the safety limits of his scuba experience. Recognition of ones limits is a first step in staying within them. That Mr. Fielding extended himself beyond his diving capabilities is plainly evident. Did he succumb to peer pressure? Did he exert it? Surely, if the concept of staying within ones limits is not crystal clear in the mind of an instructor, how can he possibly instill a philosophy of safe diving in the minds of his students?

Having survived his initial dive, Mr. Fielding was driven to extend his penetration distance by making a full-blown cave dive to a second sinkhole

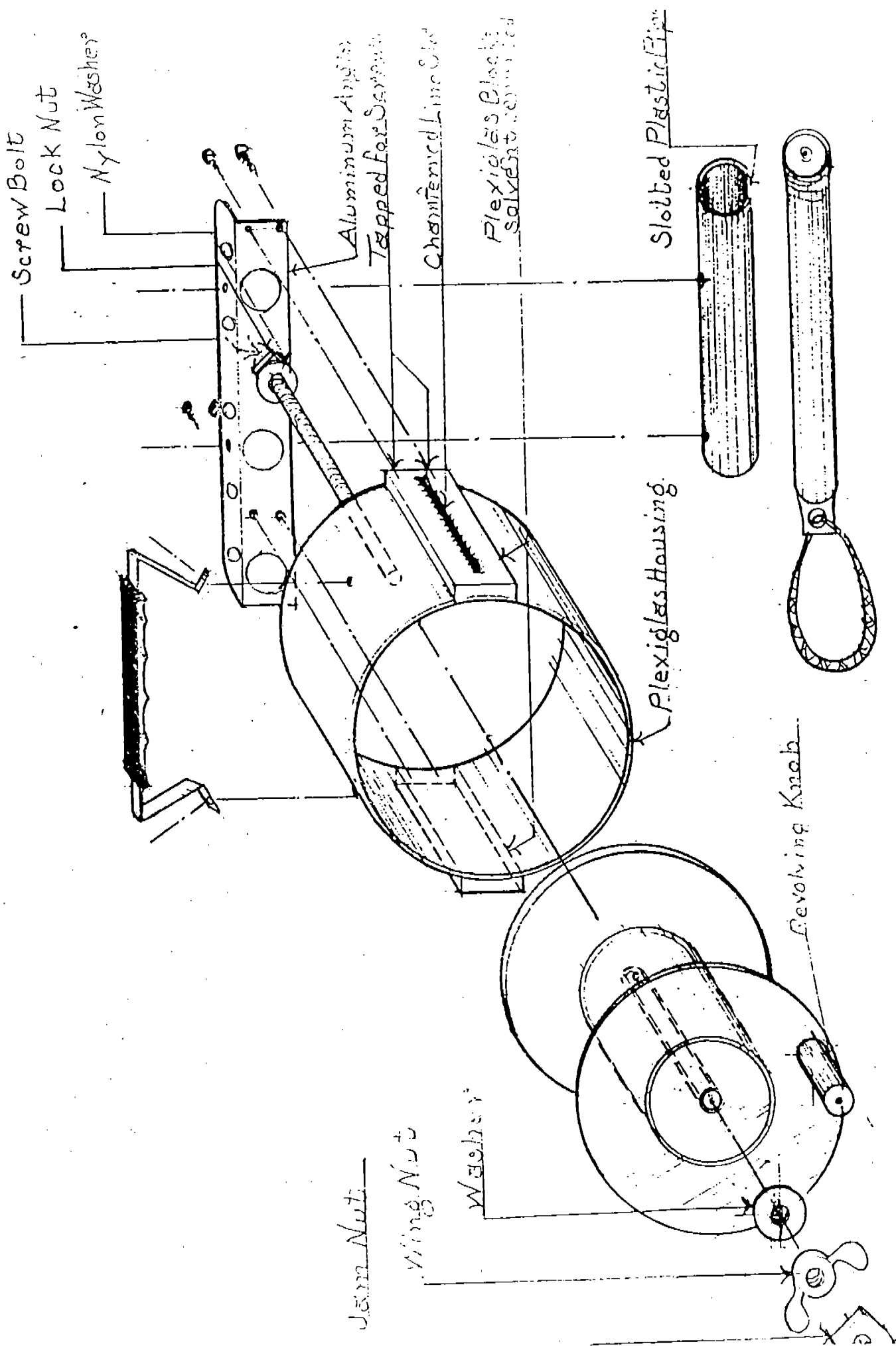
some 400 feet distant. Did Mr. Fielding actually know the location of Pothole or did he believe, as indicated in his article, that this entrance was 400 yards away? If, in point of fact, the latter is the case and Mr. Fielding was planning a 1200 foot penetration on his first cave dive, I believe he has some rather serious problems in evaluating his capabilities underwater and needs to reassess his effectiveness as a safe scuba instructor.

Relative to his dive companion, little can be said. Apparently, he was not quite as experienced as Mr. Fielding believed. In his process of selecting a dive partner, however, how could Mr. Fielding, himself inexperienced in this type of diving, hope to critically evaluate the experience of another? In considering a dive partner, especially for a dive that will take you beyond anything you've ever done, some of the important selection criteria should include: maturity, responsibility, dependability, safety consciousness, attitude, experience, ego. Mr. Fielding appears to have been somewhat more lax in his selection process. Or was it that he did not recognize the serious and advanced nature of the dive? As my cave diving instructor was fond of saying, cave diving is an insidious and sneaky sport that can lull you into a false sense of security. With the arrival of problems, however, the enormity of the task loading combined with the utterly foreign nature of the environment create disastrous circumstances for the uninitiated. Perhaps Mr. Fielding was lulled into just such a false sense of security by the success of his first dive, or perhaps he simply suffered from an instructor ego - an invulnerability philosophy implicit only when starting from a false premise of expertise. Didn't Mr. Fielding know that in addition to cavern courses, both the NACD and the NSS-CDS offer advanced courses in cave diving? Perhaps scuba instructors need to listen a little more closely to what they themselves say when they extoll the virtues of advanced and specialized diving courses to their classes!

Little matter, Mr. Fielding was off on his cave dive - 20 minutes in, 20 minutes out, and 20 minutes for safety because this, he thought, is how cave divers do it. The absurdity of an air rule based on a projected air consumption rate should be obvious to any thinking scuba diver and deserves little comment. I would merely say that Mr. Fielding might consider himself fortunate to have had his incident in the first minute of his dive rather than in the twentieth when, at his maximum point of penetration, he would have been most vulnerable. If Mr. Fielding had utilized a gap reel in his extrication attempts, he might have escaped the cave in a matter of minutes. Had he bothered to seek specialized training in cave diving, he would have learned the proper use of this piece of equipment in just this type of emergency.

As wilderness travelers, we all share certain responsibilities. The more difficult the terrain, the greater our responsibility becomes. By virtue of our training and the acquisition of skills through sequential, limited exposures, we become able to accept responsibility for ourselves and our companions. Should our capabilities not, in fact, be equal to the task, we jeopardize both. It is, however, important to recognize the fact that both our skills and our judgemental processes are equally involved in our acceptance and handling of responsibility. Mr. Fielding cannot, therefore, foster blame upon a lack of implied skill and fortitude of his companion, as he hints at. Should a companion not be ready for a particular trip, either technically or emotionally, this will be blatantly broadcast to discerning eyes. But this also requires a critical eye for judgement. Mr. Fielding's poor judgement made him equally to blame.

Our responsibility goes beyond our immediate traveling party. We are

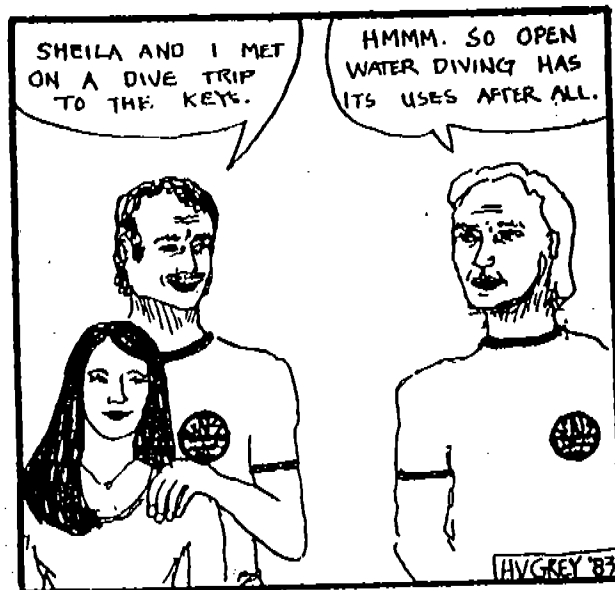


In the eventuality, Mr. Fielding, that some of the more significant lessons that you might have gleaned from your brush with death are still eluding you, I hope that my comments give you pause to think. You may, if you like, add them to the comment section of your logbook!

If the scuba industry has reached the point of being so complacent about man's proper place in an alien underwater world that it fails to recognize the real risks inherent in its exploration, we have reached a point of diminished returns. Indeed, we have taken a step backwards!

Mr. Fielding may reach me for comment, if he so desires, in his home state of Iowa at the following address:

Danny Brass
Dept. of Anatomy
College of Veterinary Medicine
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011



* * HOUSE FOR RENT * *

This home is located on the bank of the Suwannee River about halfway between O'Brien and Royal Springs. It is a two bedroom house which is set up to sleep 6, however the owners would be willing to allow extras to sleep on the floor.



For further information contact:
 Mrs. Gary H. Thompson
 8715 33rd St.
 Tampa, Fl. 33604
 (813) 988-4042

Rates are comparable to other rentals in the area.

